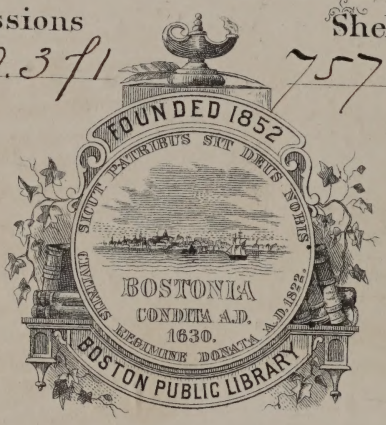
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 08653 758 4

Accessions 430.371 Shelf No. 7576.28



Received Apr. 23, 1889

FROM THE SLAVERY OF 1776 TO THE FREEDOM OF 1876.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE LABORS

OF THE

LADIES' CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

OF BOSTON,

IN RECOGNITION OF, AND HOMAGE TO, THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER, PRINTERS, 79 MILK STREET,
(CORNER OF FEDERAL.)
1876.

FROM THE SLAVERY OF 1776 TO THE FREEDOM OF 1876.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE LABORS

OF THE

LADIES' CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

OF BOSTON,

IN RECOGNITION OF, AND HOMAGE TO, THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER, PRINTERS, 79 MILK STREET,
(CORNER OF FEDERAL.)
1876.

R.A.
430.371
Apr. 23. 1889

From the Slavery of 1776 to the Liberty of 1876.

Your Committee, to whom was assigned the duty of collecting the letters and documents hereunto annexed, have attended to the same, and respectfully submit the following Report:—

The Commencement of Our Centennial Efforts.

By invitation, a number of ladies met at the residence of Mr. Lewis Hayden, April 16, 1875; the object of the meeting being to assist the Colored Freemasons of Boston in entertaining their guests at their approaching Centennial Celebration in June, 1875.

Upon motion, they resolved themselves into an organization, to be called The Prince Hall Auxiliary Association, with the following ladies as officers: Mrs. Harriet Hayden, President; Mrs. L. D. Johnson, Vice-President; Miss E. A. Gardner, Secretary; Mrs. G. O. Smith, Treasurer; Mrs. C. Bailey and others, Committee.

It was also decided to raise money by subscription or otherwise, which was done; good service rendered. After completing their self-imposed task, early in the following autumn they made arrangements for the sale of useful and fancy articles to assist Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Boston in completing their new hall; the net profits of which, amounting to over $100, were paid to the proper authority. The whole amount paid to the Masonic Order, as the result of their labor, netted nearly $200. After which, the Society saw proper to change their mode of operation, and in a measure reorganize; electing a new vice-president—Mrs. R. D. Jones—and changing the name of the Association.

Upon motion, it was resolved to change the name of the Society to The Ladies' Excelsior Charitable Association; pledged to no particular cause, but doing good in any direction they may see proper. This they have endeavored conscientiously to do.

The Association, with a few invited guests, met at the house of Mrs. Hayden to consider the propriety of contributing to the Centennial Fund, as they had been invited to do by the Executive Committee of Massachusetts. After some discussion, it was resolved to

give a centennial costume party, April 18, at Parker Memorial Hall. A large Committee of ladies and gentlemen, pledged to use all honorable means for its success, was appointed; the programme for the occasion to consist of singing, select reading, speeches, etc. Tea and other refreshments served in the supper-room.

Accordingly, on the evening of April 18, one of the most brilliant assemblies that have been seen in Boston for years gathered in Parker Memorial Hall. The programme was successfully carried out, and the net profits, amounting to one hundred dollars ($100), presented to the commissioner for Massachusetts, Hon. George B. Loring, through the Committee,—Mrs. Hayden, President; Mrs. G. O. Smith, Treasurer,—with a letter from the Secretary of the Association, Miss E. A. Gardner. How well it was received may be inferred from the letter from that honorable gentleman, which will be found elsewhere.

The exercises of the evening were as follows:—In the absence of the gentleman selected to preside, Mr. George L. Ruffin consented to serve, and upon taking the chair delivered a short address, followed by the Rev. Alexander Ellis and George T. Downing, Esq., of Newport; Mrs. Mary Buchanan read the annexed paper, entitled "Why we Celebrate"; a poem by Elijah W. Smith was read by Miss Anna Randolph; Misses Addie Smith and Alice Miller read fine selections; Miss Ellen Sawyer and the Auber Quartet furnished vocal music, Miss Wolfe presiding at the piano; also music by the Excelsior Band, under the leadership of Prof. G. W. Sharper of Boston.

REASONS WHY THE COLORED PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS SHOULD TAKE PART IN THE COMING CENTENNIAL.

Boston, March 1, 1876.

To the Ladies of the Boston Charitable Association:

How mysterious are the ways of God in his dealings with mankind! This is more vividly seen in the fact that all, or nearly all, great revolutions for the improvement of the condition of man begin, not with those whom the world regards as "wise and great," but, on the contrary, with those who are classed among the weak and feeble. Oppression forces the oppressed to seek, under God, the method for their own disenthralment. The human race being linked together, the elevation of one aids all.

In governmental affairs it was early seen by Capt. Paul Cuffe and his brother, John, of New Bedford, that taxation bore the right of representation, and, consequently, they refused to submit to the one without the right to enjoy the other.

Then we, as Massachusetts men of color, owe them a debt of gratitude for their resistance to this unjust demand, which so early resulted in the enfranchisement of every man upon the soil of this Commonwealth.

This principle is further illustrated in the fact that it was none other than a fugitive slave who set in motion that which culminated in the independence of the United States of America; we allude to Crispus Attucks. This fact is already admitted by the historians of our country, the last of whom (the lamented Vice-President Wilson) says:—

"Crispus Attucks, a colored patriot, was a leader and the first martyr in the Boston massacre on the 5th of March, 1770, which so fired the hearts and aroused the patriotism of the people."

Here, then, it is admitted that one so humble as an escaped slave led to the independence of the colonies, and as though Providence had predetermined that this nation should not be unmindful of His presence and the obligations He imposed upon the whites toward the colored race, it was committed to Salem (another man of color)

to turn the tide of war at Bunker Hill in favor of the cause for which Crispus Attucks had already offered up his life, by mortally wounding, by his deliberate aim, Major Pitcairn, the British officer in charge of the opposing forces. We repeat that Providence was teaching the people of this nation a lesson to be by them remembered. This, however, they failed to heed, and hence the dreadful carnage which lasted for four years, drenching the land in blood because they meted out chains and slavery to us who had secured for them liberty and wealth from the close of the Revolution.

The same historian adds:—

"Indeed it is hardly too much to say that some of the most heroic deeds of the War of Independence were performed by black men."

In evidence of which declaration of the historian we here submit a document the original of which is to be found in the archives of the State, which bears evidence of the heroic bearing of Salem Poor, and shows that he was more than an ordinary soldier, and that he was a commanding officer on that day—the day of the battle of Bunker Hill:—

"The subscribers beg leave to Report to your Honbl. House (which we do in justice to the character of so Brave a man) that, under our own observation, we declare that a Negro man called Salem Poor, of Col. Frye's Regiment, Capt. Ames' Company, in the late Battle at Charlestown, behaved like an Experienced officer as well as an Excellent Soldier. To set forth Particulars of his conduct would be Tedious: We would only beg leave to say, in the Person of the said Negro Centres a Brave and gallant Soldier. The Reward due to so great & Distinguished a character We submit to the Congress.

"CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 5th, 1775.

"JONA. BREWER, Col.	ELIPHIELET BODWELL, Left.
THOMAS MIXER, Lt.-Col.	JOSIAH FOSTER, Lieut.
WM. PRESCOTT, Colo.	EBEN'R VARNUM, Lieut.
EPH'M COREY, Lieut.	WM. HUDSON BALLARD, Capt.
JOSEPH BAKER, Lieut.	WM. SMITH, Capt.
JOSHUA READ, Lieut.	JOHN MASTER, Surg't.
JONAS RICHARDSON, Capt.	Lieut. RICHARD WELSH, ff-a Bret."

We say the nation was forgetful of its own declared principle, that all men are by nature free and equal. Why were they so forgetful of, and blind to, the rights of the black man? It is said of an Englishman, that he placed before his boy a piece of paper on which was written the word "God," and bade the child spell it. He did so, letter by letter. The father then placed a guinea over the word and again commanded him to spell it. The little fellow replied, "I cannot, father, for I can't see it." "Ah!" said the father, "it

is the guinea that blinds the eyes of men." In America, the invention of the cotton-gin closed the eyes of this nation to its indebtedness to the colored race, as it doubled the pecuniary value of the slave in the market. And, as the way to wickedness is always through wickedness, and the perpetration of one crime generally leads to the commission of another, so this state of things grew worse and worse. The national purchase of what was known as the Louisiana Territory, and the spread of slavery thereon, the horrible butchery and massacre of the Seminole Indians of Florida and its annexation to the country in the interests of slaveholders, the war with Mexico, the stealing of Texas, the establishment and the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—both at the command of slavery,—the revolting tragedy enacted upon the soil of Kansas, the passage of the Fugitive Slave Bill, filled the nation's cup of iniquity to its brim, maddened the patriotic and heroic John Brown, and led him to attempt a change of operations, so that slaveholders might find sufficient employment within the limits of their own States without enacting their ruffianism within the borders of the free. He selected for his field of operation the State of Virginia, upon whose soil slavery was first introduced. She was not only the mother of presidents, but also the begetter of slavery. In 1620, two Dutch ships made their way up the James River and emptied their freight of the children of God upon the soil, and there created a market in which men, women and children were afterwards bought and sold.

We firmly believe that Providence directed Capt. John Brown to that State for the purpose of breaking up that market; but as the negro of Massachusetts had in the beginning performed an important part in securing American liberties, and should continue to play this part to the end, so John Brown was not permitted to enter Virginia and perform this mission without his aid. Therefore, he and his little army were detained at Chambersburg until furnished by the black men of Massachusetts with the materials to enable him to strike. The aid was given, and Brown struck the fatal blow which made him a martyr to the cause of our race and hastened on the rebellion. This, together with the resistance made by the black men of Boston against the Fugitive Slave Bill, gave us the rebellion, which we accepted because it rent asunder every chain that fettered the black man of the United States of America. But the task of the black man of Massachusetts was not yet completed. Although in the enjoyment of the franchise himself, he felt it his duty to force an entrance into the loyal armies and secure to his race, the country over, the same rights and immunities that he enjoyed in his own State, so early taught by Paul Cuffe.

The 54th and 55th Regiments, Massachusetts Volunteers, on

entering the service, changed the whole character of the contest, by reason of the fact that it maddened the rebels and created Andersonville and Belle Isle. In a word, the "black flag" was hoisted by the foe. The descendants of the men who had commenced the war of the Revolution for freedom, had entered the field by the command of His Excellency the Governor of Massachusetts, John A. Andrew, to complete the work so gloriously commenced in King Street, now State Street; and that they maintained the honor of their fathers is attested by the action of the 54th regiment, whose pickets so stubbornly resisted a whole brigade of the enemy, and held them in check until a Connecticut regiment was enabled to make a safe retreat. Their soldierly advance upon Fort Wagner, led by their youthful commander, Col. Shaw, will live to their honor while time shall last. Who will forget the bravery of the 54th and 55th Massachusetts regiments upon the field of slaughter at Oulustee? The heroes at Thermopylæ sent back to their countrymen this sublime message: "Go tell it at Lacedæmon that we died here in obedience to her laws." In Strabo's time the pass was still adorned by the monuments erected in honor of Leonidas and his followers, on which was this simple inscription: "Stranger, tell the Lacedæmonians that we lie here in obedience to their laws." The black heroes of the 54th and 55th regiments sent back to Washington this message: "Go tell them at our capitol that we die for a nation that for two hundred and fifty years has robbed us of all our rights as men; that has taken our babes from their mothers' breasts and sold them for gain; that still insults us in continuing the distinction, in the whole matter of pay, between us and our white fellow-soldiers; and, further, attempts to force us to submit to its continuance by starving our wives and children." But with death staring them in the face, and starvation threatening their families at home, the spirit of inspiration took possession of them at this critical moment, leading them onward to the charge, undaunted, undismayed, shouting, "Onward, brothers, onward! for God and Governor Andrew!" It was through the valor manifested by the men of these regiments at Wagner, James Island, Oulustee and Honey Hill, that the white Americans were forced to concede to us the rights of citizenship so long and wickedly withheld. It was this manly spirit, that would accede to nothing short of right without a protest, that led them to refuse to submit to any inequality, in pay or otherwise, made between whites and blacks of the same position in the armies of the United States, that led to the amendments of the constitution (thus righting the wrong), making it in conformity to the Declaration of Independence,

enunciated July 4, 1776, the centennial celebration of which you are preparing to observe.

It is meet, therefore, that the people of color of Massachusetts take part in this celebration, which is to them so pregnant with historical interest.

There are several points that are worthy of our remembrance and transmission to our children. Our right of suffrage was demanded previous to the Declaration of Independence, and it was through the act of one of our race that its promulgation was effected. It was also allotted to another of our race (Peter Salem) to lay low the man at whose command the first blood was shed at Concord and Lexington. Yet, again, it was in the blood of the Massachusetts negro that the foundation-stone of this American Temple of Liberty was laid,* and he volunteered to adjust the key-stone to the arch and to cement it with his blood; and that key-stone—"The Equality of all before the law"—now adorns this beautiful structure which overarches all.

We have alluded to Peter Salem. Ex-Governor Emory Washburn, in his history of Leicester, after speaking of the bravery of colored men at Bunker Hill, of Peter Salem says:—

"There was one other whom I have noticed elsewhere who was in that fight—Peter Salem, a black man, belonging to Colonel John Nixon's regiment. All the accounts of the battle speak of the gallant conduct of Major Pitcairn, of the British marines, on that occasion. He was shot down as he mounted the redoubt, crying out, exultingly, 'The day is ours,' and fell into the arms of his son, who tenderly bore him off the field to a boat, and thence to a house in Prince Street, Boston, where he died. That shot was undoubtedly fired by Peter; and the death of Major Pitcairn, with its accompanying circumstances, formed one of the most touching incidents of that eventful day."

Here are a few of the names of the heroes of Bunker Hill fame, whose descendants you are:—Salem Poor, Cain Bowman, Peter Salem, Henry Hill, Titus Coburn, Alexander Ames, Barzilai Lew, Cato Howe, Seymour Burr, Jeremy Jonah.

In 1761, James Otis, in the old court-house at Boston, declared the great principles which were afterwards embodied in the Declaration of Independence. It was these noble sentiments, the very embodiment of human liberty, that inspired our fathers to make common cause for a common right. Is it not a strange coincidence that one hundred years from the enunciation of this principle it was assailed at Fort Sumter but became triumphant at Appomattox?

* "And the word, 'Fire,' being given, he" (Montgomery) "stepped a little on one side, and shot Attucks."—*Vide* Bancroft's History, vol. 6, page 939.

It is evident from the following Resolve, which passed the legislature of Massachusetts in 1776, that the Declaration of Independence was not regarded by the people of this Commonwealth as a mere rhetorical flourish. By no means; but was to be by them received as the unalterable and unchangeable law, being founded in equity and justice, and to be so transmitted to posterity. This is manifest, not only from the Resolves themselves, but is further seen by the language of the historian Belknap, who says that the declaration that "all men are born free and equal" was not incorporated merely as a "moral or political truth, but with a particular view to establish the liberation of the negroes on the general principle, and so it was understood by the people at large." The Resolve passed by the legislature, to which allusion has been made, may be found in vol. 35, page 251, Record, Sept. 11, 1776, as follows:—

"Whereas, the Court is credibly informed that two negro men, lately taken on the High Seas on board the sloop Hannibal & brought into this State as prisoners, are advertised to be sold at Salem, the 17th inst., at Public Auction,

"Resolved—That all persons concerned with the said negroes be and they hereby are forbidden to sell them, or in any manner to treat them otherwise than is already ordered for the treatment of prisoners taken in like manner; and if any sale of the said negroes shall be made, it is hereby declared null, and void. And that whenever it shall happen, that any negroes are taken on the High Seas, and brought as prisoners into this State, they shall not be allowed to be sold, nor treated any otherways than as prisoners are ordered to be treated, who are taken in like manner. Read and Concurred."

The above Resolution proves, first, the practical application made by the General Court of Massachusetts on its first assembling after the promulgation of the Declaration of Independence, as that Resolution placed the blacks and whites on a perfect equality before the law, and denied the supposed right of property in man. Still further, that resolution also was passed in honor of the heroism of the black men, which had already been displayed at Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill, in battling side by side with their white brothers in arms for the freedom of the colonies. And as further evidence of the spirit of equal justice which controlled the people of this Commonwealth in their dealings with the colored people, as made manifest through the legislature, we submit the following:—

"In the House of Representatives, }
February 19, 1783. }

"On the petition of Belinda, an African,

"Resolved—that there be paid out of the Treasury, out of the rents and profits arising from the estate of the late Isaac Royall, Esq. an absentee, fifteen pounds twelve shillings per annum, to Belinda, an aged servant to

the late Isaac Royall, Esqr., an absentee, until the further order of the General Court, for reasons set forth in said Belinda's petition.

"In Senate.

"Read & concurred.

"Approved by the Governor."

What a difference in the treatment between the Tories of 1776 and the Rebels of 1876. The property of the Tory of 1776 was used to support his former slaves, while the Rebels of 1876 are taunting the preservers of the country at the capitol of the nation with the expression, "We will forgive you when you shall show a proper spirit of repentance"; or in other words, the unrepentant rebel demands not only the humiliation of the loyal black man, but an acknowledgment upon the part of the whites of the country that they were wrong in coercing them into an obedience to the laws and constitution of our common country. And many a northern Tory of the present day has already so humiliated himself.

Nor were the women idle, as the records of the State attest, and as members of this association well know. Deborah Gannett has a record that reads thus:—

"XXIII. Resolve on the petition of Deborah Gannett, granting her £34 for services in the Continental army, Jan. 20th, 1792.

"On the petition of Deborah Gannett praying for compensation for services performed in the late army of the U. States.

"*Whereas*, It appears to this Court that the said Deborah Gannett enlisted under the name of Robt. Shurtliff in Capt. Webb's company, in the 4th Mass. Regt. on May 20th, 1782, & did actually perform the duty of a soldier in the late army of the U. States, to the 23d day of Oct., 1783, for which she has received no compensation, & whereas, it further appears that the said Deborah exhibited an extraordinary instance of female heroism by discharging the duties of a faithful, gallant, soldier, & at the same time preserving the virtue & chastity of her sex unsuspected & unblemished, & was discharged from the service with a fair & honorable character, therefore

"*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this Commonwealth be, & he hereby is, directed to issue his note to the said Deborah for the sum of £34 bearing interest from Oct. 23d, 1783." (See William C. Nell's "Colored Patriots of the Revolution," page 23.)

With such a record for you, do I ask too much when I say "Ere another centennial rolls around, may you be possessed of these rights which your sister, as proved above, performed her part in securing, not alone for men, but for women as well."

And to you, women of Massachusetts, I have the honor to say that as woman has ever been regarded as the weak and helpless of this world, it is fitting you should lead in recognizing that Provi-

dence which has freed the nation from every species of oppression in declaring that all men are equal before the law. Yet, ladies, the men of Massachusetts owe a debt to you, for, as yet, they have not recognized your rights—those rights which they themselves hold so dear. But it is written, "There is no rest for the wicked, saith my God." And there should be none until every human being is made equal before the law, and ere another century shall spread its pages before the world, who can doubt that even *this* wrong will be repaired, and that our country will stand forth triumphantly as the living exponent of the principles of self-government, liberty, justice and humanity for all its people.

"So let it be. In God's own might
We gird us for the coming fight,
And strong in Him whose cause is ours,
In conflict with unholy powers,
We grasp the weapons He has given,—
The Light, and Truth, and Love of Heaven."

I remain your friend and co-worker in the cause of human liberty,

LEWIS HAYDEN.

LETTERS.

BOSTON, April 26, 1876.

By your invitation, the Ladies' Charitable Association, a society composed of colored women, voted to do what they could to assist the Centennial Committee of Massachusetts in raising funds for the forthcoming Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia. To do this we gave a Centennial Tea Party at Parker Memorial Hall, last Tuesday evening, April 18; the net profits of which, amounting to $100, the treasurer of our association will, for us, present to you. We have made this effort for more than one reason. First, although ignored to a certain extent, even in this celebration, yet we are American citizens, all attempts to waive our claim to that title to the contrary notwithstanding. Secondly, our fathers, and *mothers, too*, fought to secure that glorious boon of liberty, the one hundreth year of which you now celebrate. Thirdly, gratitude to benefactors has always been a leading trait in our character, and we remember that some of those to whose invitation we have responded were our friends in the dark day of slavery, and responded willingly to the anti-slavery rallying cry.

You will accept this small sum as a willing offering of a few of the oppressed race, grateful to God and their friends as well for their partial deliverance from a worse than Egyptian bondage.

Yours, in behalf of the Charitable Association,

ELIZA GARDNER, *Secretary.*

SALEM, April 29, 1876.

DEAR MADAM:—I have received yours of the 26th instant, accompanying a gift of one hundred dollars from the colored women of Massachusetts to the Centennial Celebration of the Declaration of Independence. I shall, with pleasure, convey this sum to those who are engaged in this work, and I am sure I shall obey your wishes by presenting it to Miss Southwick and her friends, who, against all adverse circumstances, have undertaken to represent an American home of the last century, at Philadelphia.

You will allow me to congratulate you upon the opportunity you have to join in this great celebration, as participators in those rights and privileges on which our government was founded. The long and faithful service rendered by your race to the cause of American freedom should long ago have received its reward. But it remained for this generation to bestow upon you and yours that equal and exact justice without which the best government on earth must be a failure; and I congratulate you that, witnessing as you do the enjoyment of American liberty by all, you have been able to share in the work of its celebration.

When I am reminded of the services of the colored men and women of this country, of their patience and devotion and endurance, as I have been most especially by the recent endeavors of Mr. Lewis Hayden and others to record this interesting chapter of human progress, I feel that I should not perform my whole duty as the Centennial Commissioner, through whose hands your contribution is conveyed, did I not recall the services you have performed, and ask for them the gratitude of our common country.

Trusting that as time goes on all distinctions based on prejudice will vanish, and that social and civil equality will be as free to all as the air of heaven,

I am, truly your obedient servant,

GEO. B. LORING.

Mrs. Lewis Hayden, *President*,
Eliza Gardner, *Secretary*, } Boston.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Secretary's Office,
Boston, April 17, 1876.

Lewis Hayden, Esq., Boston, Mass.

My Dear Sir:—I thank you most heartily, and through you the ladies who have charge of the centennial gathering at Parker Memorial Hall, to-morrow evening, for the very kind invitation to be present. I should gladly avail myself of the privilege, but previous engagements will not permit.

Yours very truly,

HENRY B. PEIRCE.

Natick, April 18, 1876.

Dear Sir:—I regret to be obliged to inform you of my inability to be with you this evening, but I must attend to pressing business.

I thank you for the invitation, and rejoice with you that the colored man has at last a country; one that he has patiently labored for; one that he has bravely fought for, and one that I trust, in all time to come, will be just to man, no matter where he was born, or what his complexion is.

Trusting that the future may realize all the blessings the present hope for,

I remain, yours truly,

WM. NUTT,
Late Col. 55th Mass. Vols.

11th May, 1876.

To the Ladies' Charitable Association.

Ladies:—I sympathize in the profound interest you must take in the Centennial Celebration. For you especially the century just closing has an inestimable value. While its years were passing, Providence saw fit to raise and educate this nation to an act of sublime justice. Our millions were enabled to make justice the foundation of our institutions, and impartial liberty the law of the land.

To be sure that law, though written in the statute-book, is not yet found in the hearts of the people or the customs of society. But we may cherish a

firm faith that when the next generation stands in our places, neither society, nor legislatures, nor courts, will recognize race or color.

To that end let us all labor; you in making yourselves fit for all the rights and privileges of citizens; we in preparing the public to welcome you to them.

With joyful assurance of full success in such efforts, we can close the record of the last century and hail the opening of the next.

Very respectfully, yours,

WENDELL PHILLIPS.

NEW ENGLAND LOG-HOUSE,
CENTENNIAL GROUNDS, May 22, 1876.

MY DEAR MRS. HAYDEN:—I cannot help writing to thank you for the money you sent me towards my Centennial Log-house. I needed it very much, and nothing could have come more acceptably than your money at that time.

Our house is a great success; everybody seems to hunt us up and seek us out, and the house is full of visitors all the time from morning till night; then we dress in old-fashioned costume, which takes wonderfully, and all classes of people come, and all seem to enjoy it.

We have here a family of fifteen, and all work quite hard, but there is a good deal of pleasure in it all, and it is a great study of human nature. We enjoy the whole exhibition very much, there is so much that is beautiful, and rich, and elegant; and we have fine concerts every day, which are very charming. I write for the "Traveller" twice a week, and think you will enjoy reading the letters through the summer. With many thanks to all the ladies,

Very truly yours,

EMMA D. SOUTHWICK.

CENTENNIAL YEAR.

By Elijah W. Smith.

A Poem Read by Miss Anna Randolph, at the Centennial Entertainment Given by the Excelsior Charitable Association, an Organization of Colored Ladies of the City of Boston, at Parker Memorial Hall, on the Evening of April 18, 1876.

Centennial year! one hundred years
Of joy and sorrow, mirth and tears,
Of clanking chain and bondman's wail,
When freedom trembled in the scale!
Banished, for aye, the chain and rod,
A nation kneels before its God!

Centennial year! the chains have fell
From master and from slave as well,
And buried in oblivion's sea
The one curse of our history!
Hark! fifty millions raise the cheer
That greets our grand Centennial Year!

And we, whose blood has dyed the soil,
That despots threatened to despoil;
We, who have trod the thorny path,
And shrank beneath th' oppressor's wrath,
Now, with free hands, will gladly twine
Our wreaths 'round Freedom's holy shrine.

We who have sorrowed night and day,
When Freedom's face was turned away;
Who 'mid Oppression's baleful flame
Have called on the Deliverer's name;
Hasten, with grateful hearts, to bow
Before her sacred altar now!

The veil is rent! before our eyes
Its glories, rivalling the skies,
Stand all revealed; to thee, O God,
We owe our freedom from the rod!
To thee we owe a country dear,
The right to bless Centennial Year!

O, not in vain did Attucks fall,
Or Shaw sink on the death-swept wall:
For thousands sprang, with beaming brow,
To register their solemn vow!
On hill, in dale, on field and flood,
They sealed it with their martyr blood!

Dense were the clouds; the lurid glare
Of lightning filled the sulphurous air;
But when the battle's lines were set,
The *dark hand* with the bayonet
Turned the poised scale to Freedom's side,
And vile Oppression basely died!

Hail to the champions of our race,
Who met the demon face to face;
Our Garrison, our Phillips, all
Who fought the foe on field, in hall,
And on the hidden treason hurled
The lightnings of an outraged world!

Centennial Year! ye crushed of earth,
The despot's scorn, the tyrant's mirth
No more is levelled at the hands
We stretch to free you from your bands.
They know their power to harm is o'er
When safe you reach our rock-bound shore.

Aye! harmless as the white sea-foam,
Drenching the rock, from base to dome,
Their threats of vengeance, dark and deep,
Against the holy watch we keep.
We'll keep alive the sacred fire,
Lest on its altar it expire!

O, country dear, thy cheering star,
Seen by the watchers from afar,
Shall be like Bethlehem's token bright,
A sign to cheer them through the night;
From ends of earth they wend their way
Toward its gloom-dispelling ray.

Hail, hail! all hail, Centennial Year!
Join all ye millions in the cheer!
Fling to the breeze, from tower and hill,
The emblem of the freeman's will!
The North, the South, the East, the West,
All greet the land by freedom blest!

Lo! open flies her portals fair!
No cherished wrong is lurking there;
But in the glow of freedom's light
The world shall tread her halls so bright.
Shine on, O sun of Liberty!
The nations place their hopes on thee!

Where'er the breath of heaven shall swell
The banner that we love so well,
Where clang of bell or boom of gun
Shall hail fair Freedom's battle won,
Shall be proclaimed from sea to sea,
This is the Land of Liberty!

LADIES' CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION.

The following list comprises the names of the members of the Ladies' Charitable Association:—

President:
MRS. HARRIET HAYDEN.

Vice-President:
MRS. RICHARD JONES.

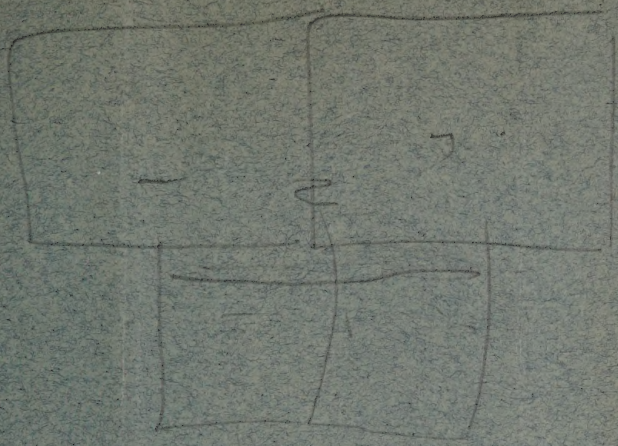
Secretary:
MISS E. A. GARDNER.

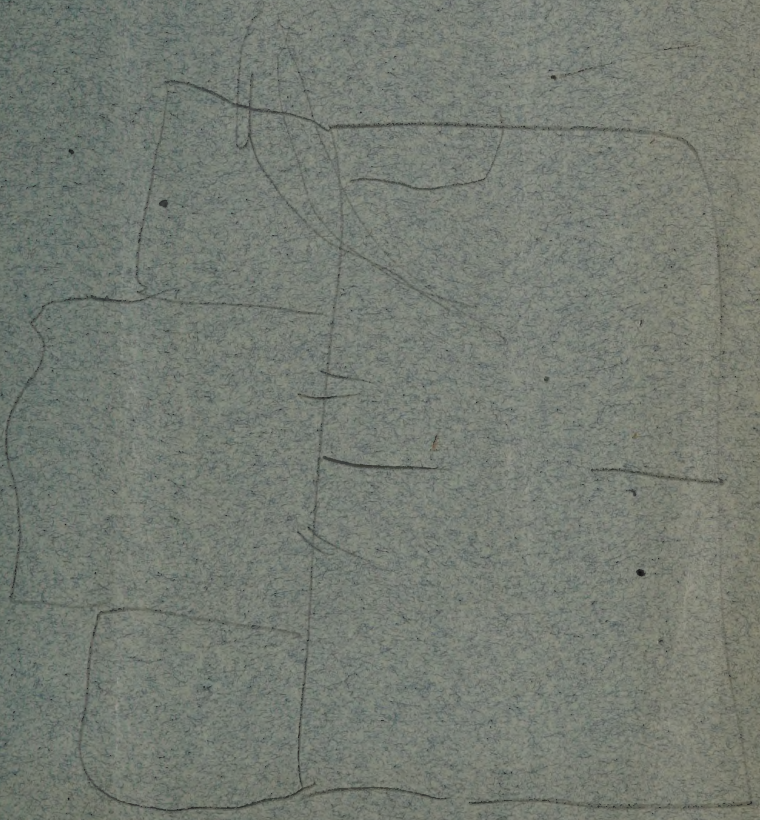
Assistant Secretary:
MRS. ELIJAH W. SMITH.

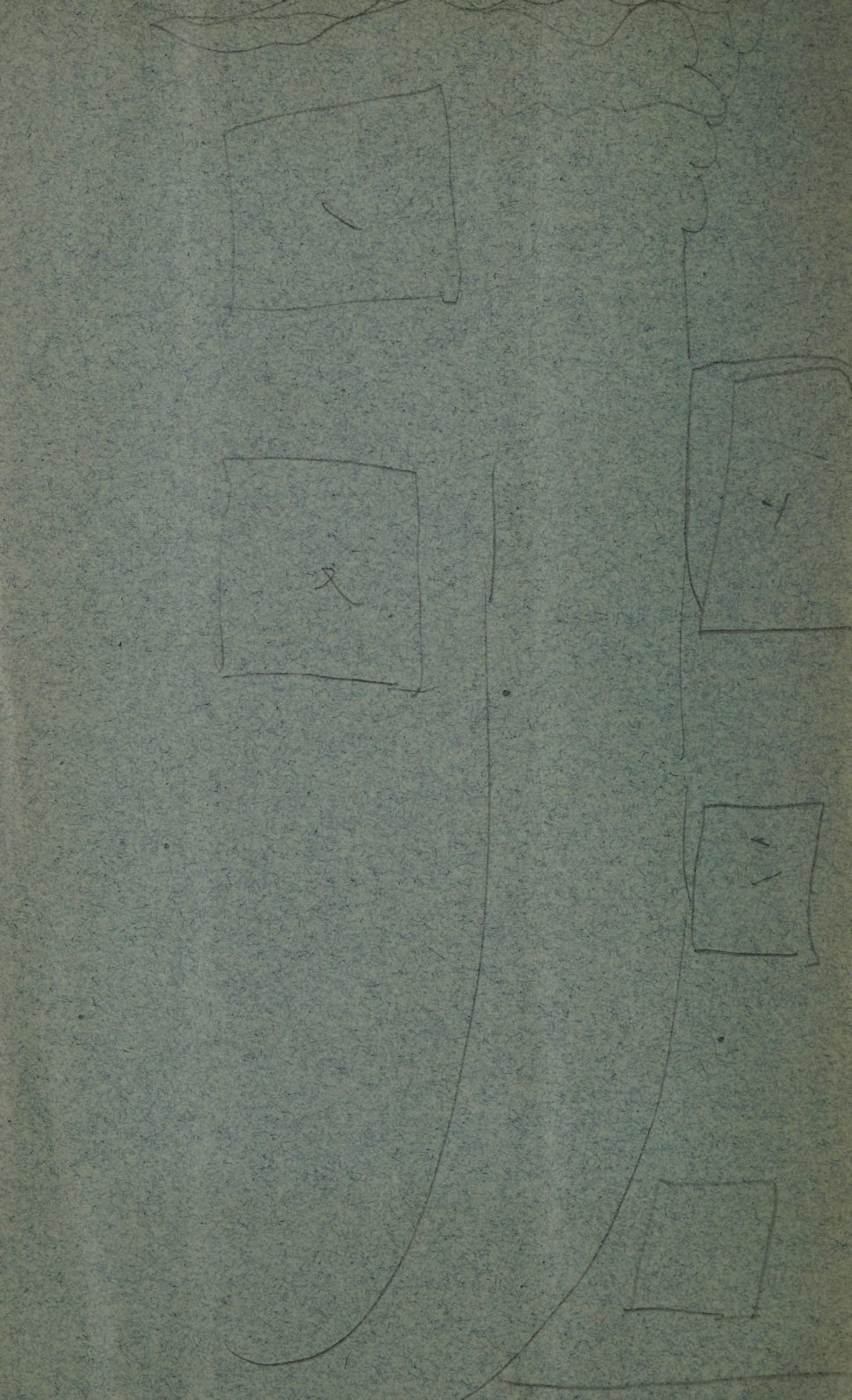
Treasurer:
MRS. G. O. SMITH.

Mrs. Caroline Bailey.
Mrs. Ann Bailey.
Mrs. Ariana Phillips.
Miss Emma Ruffin.
Mrs. Sarah Crowd.
Mrs. Florence Williams.
Mrs. Mary P. Brown.
Mrs. Sarah A. Thornton.
Miss Emily Bailey.
Miss Octavia Bailey.
Mrs. Mary Redder.
Miss Elizabeth Smith.
Miss Florence Smith.
Mrs. Maria Clike.
Mrs. Fannie Adams.
Miss Amanda Jackson.
Miss Etta Cooper.
Miss Lucy Johnson.
Mrs. Rachel Smith.
Miss Cornelia Reed.
Mrs. Mary Potter.
Mrs. M. E. Gordon.
Mrs. Fannie Lee.
Miss Louisa Williams.
Mrs. Rachel Onley.
Miss Annie Gaskins.
Miss H. Clike.

Mrs. Henrietta Coleman.
Mrs. Fannie Jackson.
Miss M. Clary.
Mrs. Matilda Bishop.
Mrs. M. E. Hill.
Miss Mary Burr.
Mrs. Lillie Allen.
Miss Lucy Henson.
Mrs. Caroline Spencer.
Mrs. Frances Hogan.
Mrs. Lydia Jones.
Mrs. Letitia Harold.
Mrs. E. L. Booker.
Miss J. Dighton.
Mrs. Palmer Watson.
Mrs. Mary Buchanan.
Mrs. Mary J. Johnson.
Mrs. Margaret Dunlop.
Mrs. Emma Gray.
Mrs. Mary J. Hasbrouck.
Miss Maggie Hasbrouck.
Mrs. A. N. Powell.
Mrs. Octavia Moss.
Mrs. Helen S. Ellis.
Mrs. Robt. Butler.
Mrs. Annie Morris.







3/18

Boston Public Library
Central Library, Copley Square

Division of
Reference and Research Services

The Date Due Card in the pocket indicates the date on or before which this book should be returned to the Library.

Please do not remove cards from this pocket.

(Dec., 1888, 20,000)

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

One volume allowed at a time, and obtained only by card; to be kept 14 days (or seven days in the case of fiction and juvenile books published within one year) without fine; not to be renewed; to be reclaimed by messenger after 21 days, who will collect 20 cents besides fine of 2 cents a day, including Sundays and holidays; not to be lent out of the borrower's household, and not to be transferred; to be returned at this Hall.

Borrowers finding this book mutilated or unwarrantably defaced, are expected to report it; and also any undue delay in the delivery of books.

*** No claim can be established because of the failure of any notice, to or from the Library, through the mail.

The record below must not be made or altered by borrower.